

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV
POLLUTION REPORT

2 10 0003

SITE: Barite Hill
BREAK: 2.10
OTHER: _____

Date: Saturday, February 10, 2007
From: Leo Francendese, OSC

To:	don bussey, ert/lv	edward bates, ord/cinn
	scott fredericks, ert/edison	greg powell, ert/edison
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	bill joyner, epa si	k power, BoR
	m lake, BoR	leigh vorreuter, errb

Subject: March 26th Field Work Date is Established
Barite Hill Nevada Goldfields
McCormick, SC
Latitude: 33.8711
Longitude: -82.2972

POLREP No.:	2	Site #:	A4NZ
Reporting Period:		D.O. #:	
Start Date:		Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:		Response Type:	
Completion Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
CERCLIS ID #:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
RCRIS ID #:		Contract #	

Site Description

The Barite Hill/Nevada Goldfields site is located approximately 3 miles south of McCormick, SC between US 378 and US 221 on the northern side of Road 30 in McCormick County, SC. The mine site is relatively remote; there are no buildings, homes, or commercial buildings within 0.5 miles of the boundary. The site actively mined gold from 1991 to 1995. From 1995 until Nevada Goldfields filed for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy in 1999, the reclamation of the site was being addressed by Nevada Goldfields. On July 7, 1999 Nevada Goldfields handed the facility's keys to SCDHEC and abandoned the site.

The site is located along a topographic high ridge area forming the headwaters of an unnamed tributary to Hawes Creek. The topography of the area consists of rolling hills with ridgelines at an elevation of about 500 feet. Within the site, the ridgeline comprising the site has a high point of about 510 feet and an average elevation of approximately 480 feet. The permitted mine site totals 795.2 acres. Of this total, 659.7 acres are designated as buffer area (areas not disturbed beyond the pre-mine natural state); therefore the maximum disturbance area is 135.5 acres.

The facility used a cyanide solution in a heap leach process to extract gold from ore. There are 7 processing ponds onsite containing an unknown amount of free-liquids. Three large, multi-acre, waste rock piles contaminated with cyanide are left onsite. Each waste rock pile has the potential for producing acid. Storm water run on and runoff are not controlled at the site. The Main Pit from the mining operations remains. The pit contains approximately 100 million gallons of water with a pH of 2 ~ 2.2 and a high dissolved metal content. Seeps from the main pit containing acidic water with high dissolved metal content are being released to the northern unnamed tributaries of Hawes



Creek which borders the pit.

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As per a referral by the State of South Carolina, the EPA Region 4 Removal Program is currently conducting a Removal Assessment according to the National Contingency Plan.

Current Activities

Bureau of Land Rec (BoR) has been added to the Removal Assessment Team and will be responsible for the inventory of the onsite areas of concern. ERT/LV continues to be the lead for workplans and execution of the field sampling event that is scheduled for the week of March 26th. ERT/Cinn is playing a supporting role to LV. ERT/Edison is the lead for the offsite ecoassessment. ORD continues to be responsible for evaluating contaminant loading to and from the site, particularly the acid mine pit. All participating parties are coordinating their site needs thru ERT/LV. The site evaluation is being coordinated with the State.

In addition, EPA Enforcement continues to closely coordinate their activities with the State of South Carolina.

www.epaosc.net/baritehillnevadagoldfieldsremovalassessment